



2012 Summer CSA Application

Thank you for your interest in our 2012 Summer CSA! Please take the time to carefully read these pages so you'll be more familiar with the realities of CSA membership before making a decision whether to apply.

CSA Information

How long is the CSA season?

- The 2012 Summer CSA season at Rockville will be 25 weeks, while Lovettsville and Lansdowne seasons will be 27 weeks.

Where are the pickup locations and times?

- Lovettsville: Monday, 4:00 pm to dark, 5/14 to 11/19, except on Memorial and Labor Day weeks pickup on Tuesday after.
- Lansdowne: Monday, 4:00 pm to dark, 5/14 to 11/19, except on Memorial and Labor Day weeks pickup on Tuesday after.
- Rockville Farmer's Market: Saturday, 9:00 am to noon, 5/12 to 11/17. (Except not on 6/2, 10/20, and one other week (TBD).

What vegetables might be included in the share?

- In the spring, your box might include some of the following items: radishes, kale, collards, spinach, chard, salad greens, lettuce, sweet turnips, carrots, arugula, Asian greens, bok choy, beets, or parsley.
- In the summer, maybe some of these: tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, eggplant, beans, squash, beets, chard, onions, garlic, leeks, scallions, carrots, basil, or potatoes.
- Late summer usually brings sweet turnips, carrots, arugula, Asian greens, pak choy, broccoli, cabbage, beet, peas, fennel, parsley, tomato, cucumber, pepper, eggplant, bean, squash, fennel, celery, celeriac, onions, garlic, scallions, and potatoes.
- In fall we might have spinach, kale, collards, cabbage, broccoli, winter radishes, lettuce, salad greens, chard, radishes, sweet turnips, carrots, leeks, onions, and sweet potatoes.
- While we grow many varieties of vegetables, it is important to note that they aren't all ripe at exactly the same time, so only about 8 or 10 different items are included in each week's share.

What size is the share?

- Full Share – Recommended for 3-5 people.
- Small Share – Recommended for 1-3 people.

What are your growing practices?

- To describe our farm or growing practices as "organic", we would need to be certified by the government. We had considering going that route, just so we could use the "organic" word. And it wouldn't be too hard, since we already follow organic practices. But we discovered that the certification fees would be about \$1,700 *each year* and there would be lots of paperwork to fill out every day. To pay the expense of the fees and the time spent filling out all the paperwork, we would have to raise our prices, and that is something we didn't want to do. Besides, there are flaws and loopholes in the government's program that don't really insure that the food is any better. So instead of organic, we call our produce "naturally grown". It doesn't have quite the ring of "organic", but on our farm, it means the same thing.
- We do not use synthetic chemical insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, or fertilizers and we do not use GMO seeds. What we do here at Quarter Branch Farm is focus on building incredibly healthy, living soil. Healthy soil grows healthy plants that are resistant to pest and disease pressure. Healthy plants grow healthy food which of course makes people healthier. Here are some examples of the natural methods we use on the farm.
 - Increasing organic matter in the soil by adding lots of compost to the soil and growing cover crops. High organic matter allows the soil to retain moisture and oxygen, allowing the plant roots to breathe. It also helps keeps the soil from compacting and crusting over.
 - Using crop rotations to more effectively utilize nutrients and to break weed, pest and disease lifecycles.
 - Using pest exclusion covers on specific crops that tend to have more pest pressure rather than spraying (organic, of course). The covers are not a cheap solution, but they work (most of the time). On a couple occasions last year we used an organically-approved biological spray, but only as a last resort.
 - Conserving water resources by mulching, aerating the soil, using drip irrigation wherever possible.
 - Using well water for irrigation, which reduces the possibility of food contamination that can occur through use of surface water for irrigation.



2012 Summer CSA Application

CSA Information (continued)

What is unique about Quarter Branch Farm?

- At just 2.5 acres of crops, Quarter Branch Farm is one of the smallest commercial vegetable farms in the Loudoun area. It is our only source of income, so we take farming seriously and are continuously striving to learn how to be better growers.
- All of our produce is Certified Naturally Grown. We do not use any chemical fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, or fungicides and we never use chemically treated or GMO seed. We instead focus on building a healthy, living soil which in turn grows healthy, vibrant plants that resist pests and disease.
- We grow many heirloom and hard-to-find varieties of vegetables and greens.
- Our produce is known to be uncommonly flavorful, clean, and attractive.
- We have an extended season by growing under row covers, quick hoops, and passive solar-heated high tunnels.
- Your input is very valuable to us. We encourage you to freely suggest ways we could do better. We really care about you and want you to be delighted with the CSA experience!

What is the cost?

- Full shares are \$29/week and small shares are \$20/week. Virginia residents add 2.5% sales tax. The amount for all the weeks of the season is paid upfront. (See page 3 for total amounts.)

Do I get to choose what vegetables I get?

- We have two types of shares, depending on the pickup location. A “Market Share” at the Farmer’s Market and a “Farm Share” at the other pickup locations.
- With the “Market Share”, you get to choose what types of vegetables you get. You can go on vacation one week and stock up another week. We record the weekly transactions and keep a running balance of your account. This is a very popular share, since you have complete flexibility in your shopping. However, Market Shares are only available at our Farmers’ Market locations.
- Our “Farm Shares” is what we offer at our Lovettsville and Lansdowne pickup locations. A Farm Share generally includes 8-10 different types of vegetables – whatever is in season that week. All of the Farm Shares are more or less the same – you don’t get to choose what vegetables you get. Not knowing ahead of time what will be in the share tends to encourage creativity and resourcefulness. You’ll be trying a lot of new recipes! Many people share their shares with a neighbor or co-worker. If you don’t care for radishes, chances are someone in their family will.

Am I required to work on the farm?

- No, we don’t currently have a work requirement. But we hope you will want to come meet your farmers and see how your food is grown. And it’s fun for us to meet all the folks who eat our vegetables! We can always use more hands on Friday, our big harvest day. The work generally involves being in the sun and heat, bending over for long periods of time, kneeling in the dirt, walking in muddy conditions, and carrying up to 40 lbs – so dress appropriately. Come with your most cheerful attitude, be prepared to follow instructions and work hard and get sweaty and dirty!

What if I can’t make a pickup date?

- The shares *must* be picked up by the end of the pickup day or they will be given away to some else who could use them. They will *not* be available to pickup the following day. If you know you can’t come, arrange to have someone else come for you. If you can’t do that, let us know and we’ll give it to someone who could use it. Please don’t just leave the share unclaimed because the it will spoil quickly without refrigeration and the food will go to waste. So please remember to pickup each week and make arrangements if you can’t come!

Can I cancel my membership in the CSA?

- By signing up early in the year, you are committing yourself to be a member of our CSA for the entire season, thus providing us with a secure market – a very welcome thing in the uncertain world of farming! We, in turn, dedicate ourselves to being your farmers, providing you with nutritious, naturally grown, high quality produce. You are free to transfer ownership of your share at any time, but there are **no refunds**.

What happens if there is a crop failure?

- One of the fundamental principles of Community Supported Agriculture is that the shareholder shares both the bounty and the risk of the farm. In farming, there are many things that can go wrong; there are definitely no guarantees that a crop will succeed. We try to do everything within our means to try to make each crop a success, but it doesn’t always work. In 2011, we didn’t get any melons, shallots, or potatoes. But we had an abundance of tomatoes, lettuce, peppers and sweet potatoes. Growing many different crops helps insure that, even if some crops fail, there should be enough of other crops to fill the gaps.



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Share Type

<input type="checkbox"/> Lovettsville Pickup:	Farm Share (full)	\$802.58 (25wks x \$29 + \$19.58 for 2.5% VA sales tax)
<input type="checkbox"/> Lovettsville Pickup:	Farm Share (small)	\$553.50 (25wks x \$20 + \$13.50 for 2.5% VA sales tax)
<input type="checkbox"/> Lansdowne Pickup:	Farm Share (full)	\$802.58 (25wks x \$29 + \$19.58 for 2.5% VA sales tax)
<input type="checkbox"/> Lansdowne Pickup:	Farm Share (small)	\$553.50 (25wks x \$20 + \$13.50 for 2.5% VA sales tax)
<input type="checkbox"/> Rockville Market:	Market Share (full)	\$725.00 (27wks x \$29. No MD sales tax)
<input type="checkbox"/> Rockville Market:	Market Share (small)	\$500.00 (27wks x \$20. No MD sales tax)

(Payable to Quarter Branch Farm, 40327 Quarter Branch Road, Lovettsville, VA 20180)

Contact Information

Name (s) _____

Email (s) _____

Phone (s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Social Networking (optional) _____

How you heard about our CSA (optional, but much appreciated) _____

Comments _____



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Membership Agreement

___ I have carefully read and understand the pages above.

___ I understand that by signing below I am committing myself to being a member of the Quarter Branch Farm 2012 Summer CSA program for the entire CSA season. I understand that although I may transfer share ownership to another person at any time during the season, there are no refunds. The farm is counting on my season-long commitment to provide them with a stable income in an environment that is anything but stable.

___ I understand that ownership of a share does not give me any control over the operations of the farm, (although my suggestions are welcomed), and that my share ownership ceases at the end of the season.

___ I understand that farming is seasonal and highly dependent on weather and other environmental influences. Both the contents and quantities **will vary considerably** throughout the season. Hopefully times of little will make us even more grateful for the times of plenty.

___ I understand that I will receive a share of produce every week for the duration of the season. Each pickup location has a specified timeframe for pickup. If I do not come within that timeframe, I will **lose** my share of the harvest that week. There will be no way to get my share after the timeframe ends. I understand that it is **very important** that I pick up my share on time (or have someone else pick it up on time). There are **no refunds** or credits. I understand that if I do not pick up my share within the pickup timeframe, I will lose that week's share.

Signature _____ Date _____

Applications will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis and must include check for the whole amount. Please send the application (just pages 3 and 4) along with a check for the share amount, made payable to "Quarter Branch Farm". Please send application and check to 40327 Quarter Branch Road, Lovettsville, VA 20180. Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or comments. Our contact information is below. Thank you very much for your support and we look forward to bringing you the finest in local vegetables!*

** If you are unable to pay the full amount upfront, please let us know and we'll try to find a way to make it work.*